

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 3, 2002. Claims 1-29, 39, 40 and 43-45 are pending in this application with claims 1, 10, 19-21, 39 and 40 being in independent form. Claim 40 has been amended to correct a formal matter not effecting the scope of the claims. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment After Final Rejection.

The drawings were objected to because of a formal matter. In response, Applicants will attend to the formalities with the crosshatching when the application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

The formal matter noted with respect to claim 40 has been corrected. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 40 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16-22, 24, 25, 27-29, 39, 40, 43, 44 and 45 were rejected under Section 102 (b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,923,121 to Kruppenbach et al. Claims 3, 12 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kruppenbach et al. in view of U.S. Patent 3,325,765 to Hart et al. Claims 6, 15 and 26 were rejected under Section 103 (a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kruppenbach et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,601,448 to Poon. Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit independent claims 1, 10, 19, 20-21, 30 and 39-42 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a monitoring cable comprising a connector for connection to a monitoring equipment, a cable including a plurality of individual wires each extending substantially an entire length of the cable, the cable having a first end to which the

connector is attached and a distal end. A plurality of electrodes are each electrically connected to a respective one of the plurality of individual wires and positioned at various points along the cable, with at least one of the plurality of electrodes being positioned between the first end and the distal end.

Kruppenbach et al, as understood by Applicants, relates to a towed land cable. A typical land cable 12 may be 1.5 miles long and be made up of six sections. A typical section may include forty eight geophones which are attached to the main cable by way of leader cables 48. Twelve geophones, for example, may be electrically interconnected to produce one channel of recorder information (column 3, lines 28-45).

The Office Action suggests that each “one section” also defines an entire cable and thus Kruppenbach et al. allegedly shows the cable having wires that extend for substantially the entire length of the cable. However, even if for arguments sake this was conceded, it is submitted that Kruppenbach et al. would still not meet the terms of the claims. For example, as understood by Applicants, if each “one section” is said to define an entire cable, it appears that the geophones for that one section would be electrically interconnected to produce one channel of information (Column 3, lines 42-45).

That is, Applicants find no teaching or suggestion in Kruppenbach et al. of a monitoring cable comprising a plurality of electrodes that are each electrically connected to a *respective one* of the plurality of individual wires, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit the independent claims are patentably distinct from Kruppenbach et al.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit independent claims 1, 10, 19, 20, 21, 39 and 40 and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this Amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If an additional petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees, including the RCE and Extension fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this Amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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